

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (once amended) The compound of [any one of claims 1 to 3]claim 1, wherein the linker group Ln is a chain of 1 to 60 carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and/or sulphur atoms, rigid or flexible, saturated or unsaturated.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (once amended) The compound of [any one of claims 1 to 4]claim 1, wherein the reporter moiety Rp is a signal moiety or a solid surface or a reactive group by means of which a signal moiety or a solid surface may be linked to the nucleoside or nucleotide analogue.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (once amended) A nucleoside analogue comprising a compound according to [any one of claims 1 to 6]claim 1.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (once amended) A nucleotide analogue comprising a compound according to [any one of claims 2 to 6]claim 2.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (once amended) [A]The polynucleotide chain according to claim 10 wherein Q is a nucleic acid backbone consisting of sugar-phosphate repeats or modified sugar-phosphate repeats (LNA), or a backbone analogue such as peptide or polyamide nucleic acid (PNA).

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

12. (once amended) A chain extension method which comprises reacting [a]the polynucleotide chain according to [claims 10 or 11]claim 10 with a primer in the presence of a polymerase.

Please amend claim 14 as follows:

14. (once amended) A method of detecting a nucleic acid which contains a compound according to [any of claims 1 to 6]claim 1, which method comprises the step of detecting the presence of the reporter moiety Rp.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (once amended) [A]The method as claimed in claim 14 in which the reporter moiety is a radioisotope, a stable isotope, a signal moiety or a specific chemical moiety suitable for detecting by spectroscopy, especially mass spectroscopy.

In the Abstract

Please add the following abstract on a separate sheet:

-- Abstract

Compounds having structure (I) where X is CH or N, Y is -CO-, -CONW-, -O-, -S-, -SO₂-, -NWCO-, -NW-, or -OCO-, W is the same or different at different places in the molecule and each is H or alkyl or aryl or Rp or -Ln-Rp, Ln is a linker group, Rp is a reporter moiety, and Q is a sugar or a sugar analogue or a nucleic acid backbone analogue, provided that at least one reporter moiety Rp is present, provide nucleoside triphosphates which are good enzyme substrates. --